

One of the chief anxieties of my sister and myself was, ^{what} was to be done with Tita. Our embarrassment ^{was} increased ^{by}

] the announcement of his marriage to 'Hughes/ my mother's

] former maid, who remained on as housekeeper — an event

I which we suspected had taken place some years previously.

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It was dreadful to think that a man who had been in Byron's service, and soothed his last moments, who had been the faithful attendant and almost the companion and friend of my father, for so many years, who had actually died in his arms, should end his days in the usual refuge for domestic servants, by keeping a public-house, or a greengrocer's shop; but, happily, just at that moment I accidentally met Sir John Cam Hobhouse, in a country house, and asked him if he remembered Tita in Byron's service. He replied, 'Perfectly.' Then I said, 'He now wants a friend, and he has an hereditary claim on you as Byron's executor.' I told him his subsequent history and my anxiety to provide for him, and asked him for an appointment as messenger in some department of the Government. Hobhouse gave me little hope at the time, but, within a week of our meeting, I received a letter that a messengership at the Board of Control had fallen vacant, to which he should be happy to appoint Tita, and so we landed him. Another crisis occurred when the Board of Control was abolished, and Tita was liable to be dismissed, on a small pension; but fortunately we were then in power, and Stanley was head of the India Office, to whom I related Tita's history, and appealed to him to look after his interests. The result was that Tita was appointed chief messenger at the new India Office, then temporarily located in Victoria St., but without the liability of having to carry messages.

Tita died in 1874 at the age of 76; and the following letter well illustrates Disraeli's habit of pertinacious kindness for those whom he had once admitted to his friendship or taken under his protection : —

To Queen Victoria.

10, DOWNING STREET, WHITEHALL,

Jan. 13, 1875.

Mr. Disraeli with his humble duty to your

Majesty. He earnestly recommends to your Majesty, for a pension of £50, Sarah Falcieri, the widow, after thirty years of much devotion, of Giovanni Battista Falcieri, the faithful servant of Lord Byron.